

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone, comprising:

10 a proximity determinator to determine a distance between a handset of said cordless telephone and a base unit of said cordless telephone, and to effectuate a given attenuation of an audio path based on said determined distance.

- 15 2. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said cordless telephone has a speakerphone functionality;

and

20 said effected attenuation reducing instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

- 25 3. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said given attenuation is a fixed amount of attenuation based on said determined distance being less than or equal to a given threshold proximity distance between said handset and said base unit.

4. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said given attenuation is a variable amount of attenuation based on a relationship between a desired amount of attenuation and said determined distance.

5. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 4, wherein:

said desired amount of attenuation is determined from a look up table.

5

6. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises:

a receive signal strength indicator module.

10

7. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises:

a round trip delay measurement module.

15

8. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises:

a global positioning satellite system.

20

9. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 8, wherein:

said global positioning satellite system is installed in said handset.

25

10. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said proximity determinator determines said distance only when said handset and said base unit are operating simultaneously.

30

11. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 10, wherein

at least one of said handset and said base unit is operating in a speakerphone mode when said distance is determined.

5

12. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is a muting of said audio path.

10

13. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is variable in relationship to a distance between said handset and said base unit.

15

14. The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is a fixed amount of attenuation.

20

15. A method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising:

determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone; and

when said handset is within a predetermined close distance to said base unit, attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit.

25

16. The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, further comprising:

placing said cordless telephone in a speakerphone mode;

5 said attenuation reducing instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

17. The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 16, wherein:

10 said at least one audio path is a path from a microphone of said handset.

18. The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, further comprising:

15 determining simultaneous operation of said handset and said cordless telephone.

19. The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, wherein:

20 said proximity is determined using a receive signal strength indicator of a received signal.

20. The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, wherein:

25 said proximity is determined using a round trip delay timing of a signal between said handset and said base unit.

21. The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, wherein:

said proximity is determined using a difference between a GPS determined location of said handset and a GPS determined location of said base unit.

22. Apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising:

means for determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone; and

means for attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit when said handset is within a predetermined close distance to said base unit;

wherein said attenuation prevents instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

23. The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein:

said at least one audio path is a path from a microphone of said handset.

24. The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for determining simultaneous operation of said handset and said cordless telephone.

25. The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:

a receive signal strength indicator module.

26. The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:

5 a round trip delay measurement module.

27. The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:

10 a global positioning satellite system.

15

005050" 43305560